



Beach Tour

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

Last Updated: 3rd June 2021

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1. VLY BEACH TOUR AIMS

The Volleyball Ireland Beach Tour (also referred to as “VLY Beach Tour”) has been established with the following goals:

- To provide top-level national competition for Ireland’s elite and developing players.
- To showcase beach volleyball to audiences across Ireland.
- To attract new players to the sport and encourage them to develop their skills.
- To provide an important stage in the progression of athletes to ‘higher level’ tours such as CEV & FIVB events.
- To engage new and existing tournament promoters across Ireland.
- To provide exposure and marketing opportunities for the sport’s commercial partners.
- To provide a wide range of events to support all levels of beach player by implementing the 3-tier system.
- To support the development of a referee pathway

The purpose of this Handbook is to:

- Provide a support guide to event organisers.
- Guarantee the integrity of beach volleyball and the VLY Beach Tour.
- Ensure that the interests of all players, spectators, promoters, officials, and commercial partners are afforded maximum levels of protection.
- Provide all involved parties with the opportunity to reap the benefits of a successful Tour.

2. TOUR PROMOTERS & ORGANISERS

2.1 The VLY Beach Tour is promoted by Volleyball Ireland and sanctioned by the Beach Tour Management Committee (BTMC)

Volleyball Ireland approves and oversees the calendar of tournaments, the rules and regulations, the publicity and promotion, membership system and the overall administration of the VLY Beach Tour.

2.2 Delivery of events is undertaken by the appointed event organisers. Volleyball Ireland has no responsibility for the delivery of events.


2.3 All correspondence relating to the VLY Beach Tour should be sent to:
beach@volleyballireland.com

3. TOUR CALENDAR

3.1 The Tour Calendar can be found at <https://www.volleyballireland.com/competitions/calendar/>. The VLY Beach Tour Calendar may be amended during the season at the discretion of the BTMC.

4. TOUR STRUCTURE

4.1 The tour will follow a tiered system;

Junior Tour	Mixed & Single gender, 1-day event for players aged Under 16 and Under 20.
1 & 2 Star	Mixed & Single gender, 1-day event to engage local beach volleyball communities and provide regular competition for Ireland’s top and developing players.
3 Star 	Single gender, 2-day event for the country’s top-level players in iconic/high footfall locations. FIVB Scoring system.

5. EVENT CRITERIA

5.1 Event criteria is decided upon by the BTMC. It is aimed to ensure that all events are accessible for all levels of player and sustainable for tournament organisers. Please see appendix C for event criteria table.

6. EVENT APPLICATION PROCESS

6.1 It is mandatory for all event organisers planning to host a VLY Beach Tour event to register their event with BTMC by no later than March 1st. The confirmed calendar will then be released within the first two weeks of March.

6.2 1* & 2* event applications must be submitted no later than 1st March. and the decision to include them in the calendar will be solely down to the BTMC.

All 3* events will be hosted by Volleyball Ireland.

7. RULES & REGULATIONS

7.1 All VLY Beach Tour players agree to abide by the VLY Beach Tour Handbook, the VLY Beach Tour Players Code of Conduct, and, where applicable, individual tournament rules and regulations.

8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

8.1 At all VLY Beach Tour events, it is the responsibility of the event organiser and/or technical supervisor to deal with all disputes or protests arising during the tournament, which are related and not related to play.

8.2 If a player is deemed to be bringing the game into disrepute, the event organiser/technical supervisor has the right to report the individual and his/her behaviour to the BTMC. Together with the event organiser/technical supervisor the BTMC may wish to proceed to issuing the player a disciplinary warning and furthermore a disciplinary hearing.

8.3 Should the BTMC wish to penalise the player. The BTMC will assemble an independent panel that the player can plead their case and ultimately a final decision will be made.

9. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

9.1 To be eligible for entry into a VLY Beach Tour event, players must meet the following conditions:

Players MUST hold a valid Volleyball Ireland Player licence (see below). Memberships can only be obtained on the Volleyball Ireland membership portal

<https://volleyballireland.azolve.com/Account.mvc/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f>

Memberships are only valid for the current season.

Adult Membership	€15	The player is eligible to play in all VLY Beach Tour events excluding junior tour events
Junior Membership	€5	The player is eligible to play in all VLY Beach Tour events, age restrictions apply. Players playing in the U20 Junior Tour must be aged 19 or under on 31 st December 2021.

		Players playing in the U16 Junior Tour must be aged 15 or under on 31 st December 2021.
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10. TOURNAMENT ENTRY

10.1 Entry to all tournaments, including payment of the tournament entry fee, must be completed via

<https://volleyballireland.azure.com/Account.mvc/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f>.

10.2 Entry Deadlines

Junior Tour	Tournament organiser discretion
1 – 3 Star	Tournament organiser discretion.

* Event Organisers in conjunction with the BTMC may provide exceptions for players on international duty in CEV/FIVB sanctioned events.

10.3 Confirmed Entry Lists

Junior Tour	Tournament organiser discretion.
1* & 2*	Tournament organiser discretion.
3*	Tuesday prior to the event start date. Entry based on seeding points on this date.

10.4 The entry fee for each event is down to the discretion of the event organizer, suggested amounts below:

Junior Tour	€15 per player
1* & 2*	€15 per player
3*	€15 per player

10.5 Number of Entries per event (according to event criteria – appendix B)

Junior Tour	Minimum 4 teams and maximum number based off number of courts in play
1*	Minimum 4 teams and maximum number based off number of courts in play
2*	Minimum 8 teams and maximum number based off number of courts in play
3*	Minimum 6 teams and maximum 16 teams per gender

10.6 It is advised that players playing indoor Premier Division, and Division 1 do not enter 1* events and that these players enter 2* events only. It is also advised that players playing

indoor Division 2 and lower divisions do not enter 2* events and that these players enter 1* events.

11. WILDCARDS

11.1 The following awarding of wildcards apply decision to use these will be at the discretion of the event organiser and the BTMC:

Junior Tour	Wildcards not applicable, entry is based on first come first served
1* & 2*	Wildcards not applicable, entry is based on first come first served
3*	Entry is based on rankings along with wildcards to be determined by the BTMC

12. WITHDRAWALS/CHANGES TO PLAYING PARTNERS

12.1 Teams who withdraw within 7 days of an event shall not be entitled to a refund unless another team replaces them. (unless event organiser has stated a different rule in the tournament regulations).

12.2 All tournament organisers must have a reserve list for every event.

12.3 The following rules shall apply when a team withdraws from a tournament:

Junior Tour	The next entered team on the reserve list will be offered the position. If they do not accept then the team below will be offered and so on. Tournament seeding does not apply, it will be the team who entered first.
1* & 2*	The next entered team on the reserve list will be offered the position. If they do not accept then the team below will be offered and so on. Tournament seeding does not apply, it will be the team who entered first.
3*	The highest seeded team on the reserve list will be offered the position. If they do not accept then the team below will be offered and so on.

12.4 Last minute change of partner: If a player decides to change their partner within 14 days of the event, the following rules shall apply:

Junior Tour	The player will be replaced with no consequences.
1* & 2*	The player will be replaced with no consequences.

3*	The team will be ranked on their new seeding. If there is a team on the reserve list who have a higher ranking than a team in the competition, then they will be replaced. If there is no reserve list or the reserve team/s can no longer attend, then the original team will stay in the event.
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- 12.5 The BTMC or event organiser may request supporting evidence for the withdrawal of the player. (Medical certificate etc.).
- 12.6 Event organisers have the right to report any suspicious behaviour to the BTMC. Penalties will be put in place should their suspicions be proven true.

13. VENUES

- 13.1 In all instances, the tournament site will be under the control of the Event Organiser. Players and their associated coaches, team officials and spectators are expected to treat each venue with respect and in accordance with any host venue guidelines or regulations that may be in place.
- 13.2 If deemed necessary and appropriate, the event organiser may impose sanctions against players for any contraventions of host venue guidelines or regulations by players or their associated coaches, team officials or spectators.
- 13.3 While every effort is made to ensure the suitability of each playing venue, they are independently managed. Volleyball Ireland cannot be held responsible for an injury caused because of any type of debris on the playing surface.
- 13.4 Volleyball Ireland will provide insurance for the event.

14. ORGANISER EXPECTATIONS

- 14.1 Event organisers must agree to the event organiser agreement sent out by the BTMC prior to the start of the new season.
- 14.2 Event organisers must follow the official event application procedure.
- 14.3 Volleyball Ireland will provide insurance for the event.
- 14.4 Organisers are responsible for meeting and delivering the criteria for the tier of event they are organising. Event criteria can be found in appendix B.
- 14.5 Should any of the above not be met, the BTMC reserve the right to withdraw an event from the calendar, even after the event has taken place.

15. REGISTRATION & TECHNICAL MEETING

- 15.1 The following technical meeting rules apply:

Junior Tour	The event organiser can choose to hold a technical meeting on the morning of the event or publish the draw and rules via email or social media in the days before
1* & 2*	The event organiser can choose to hold a technical meeting on the morning of the event or publish the draw and rules via email or social media in the days before
3*	There will be no technical meeting on the morning of the first day of play. The schedule will be published the day before the event. Players are expected to be on time for both playing and officiating duties. Sanctions will apply to absences or lateness

- 15.2 Should a technical meeting take place; players must be in attendance.
- 15.3 In cases where exceptional circumstances prevent a team from registering or a player from attending the Technical Meeting, it will be the team's or the player's responsibility to notify the event organiser in advance of the inability to register or attend and to demonstrate the existence of such exceptional circumstances.
- 15.4 The event organiser may impose sanctions for teams failing to register or for players failing to attend the Technical Meeting.

16. COMPETITION FORMAT

16.1 For Junior, 1* & 2* Tour events, it is at the event organiser's discretion as to which format, they decide upon, 3* Tour events must follow the official format:

Junior Tour Event	Discretion of event host.
1* & 2* Tour Event	Double elimination (21, 21, 15)
3* Tour Event	Group Stage followed by Single or Double elimination (minimum 3 games per team)

Double Elimination

- All teams commence the competition in the "winners' bracket" (WB) where they remain until registering a loss.
- A team losing a match in the WB will move into the "contenders' bracket" (CB) where they remain until registering a second loss, at which time they are eliminated from the competition.
- This format continues until 4 teams remain in the competition: 2 teams in each of the WB and CB. At this point, teams will compete in the semi-finals where each WB team will play a CB team. Winners of these matches will progress to the final.
- Due to the nature of the elimination process, multiple teams are eliminated from the competition at the same time. These teams will be awarded the same final ranking for the event.

Group Stage Play for Junior, 1* & 2* Tour Event.

- Teams are divided into pools of 3, 4 or 5-
- Each team plays one match against each of the other teams in the pool.
- Within each pool teams are ranked by:
 1. Matches won.
 2. Points for / against ratio.
 3. Winner of the match between otherwise equally ranked teams.
- It is the responsibility of the tournament organiser to decide how crossovers proceed.
- The final four teams will compete in the semifinals. Winners of these matches will progress to the gold medal match.

3* Tour Event

- Teams are divided into pools of 3. The pools will take the following format:

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
Seed 1	Seed 2	Seed 3	Seed 4
Seed 5	Seed 6	Seed 7	Seed 8
Seed 9	Seed 10	Seed 11	Seed 12

- Each team plays one match against each of the other teams in the pool.
- Within each pool teams are ranked by:
 - Matches won.
 - Points for / against ratio
 - Winner of the match between otherwise equally ranked teams.
- The top team from all Groups will advance directly to the quarter finals (to be played on Sunday morning).
- The 2nd & 3rd (AvB, BvA, CvD, DvC). The winners will play the group winners in a quarter final. While the losers will play-off for 9th-12th place.
- The draw will continue to be single elimination with a 3rd/4th place play-off.

17. MATCH TIMING & SCORING

Intervals Between Matches

- 17.1 A maximum 5-minute interval between matches, unless otherwise indicated, is to be strictly enforced.
- 17.2 Teams required to complete back-to-back games or teams playing straight after refereeing, a minimum 5-minute interval will be permitted. A maximum period will be determined by the Event organiser and applied where required.

Variation of Match Format

- 17.3 In conjunction with the VLY Beach Tour, the Event Manager may decide to use a reduced scoring format in some or all matches of a tournament.
- 17.4 At the discretion of the event organiser, matches may be played without the inclusion of a technical time-out.
- 17.5 Any variations to the standard match format as provided for in the FIVB Beach Volleyball Official Rules will be announced at the Technical Meeting or in prior communication.

Alterations to Match or Tournament Format during an Event

- 17.6 Where necessary, the event organiser may alter the match format or the tournament format during an event to ensure player safety and/or the completion of the event.
- 17.7 Any match or tournament format changes will be announced immediately upon such decision being made.
- 17.8 Any matches that are still incomplete at the time of such decision being announced will be played under the originally advertised match and tournament format.

18. INCOMPLETE OR CANCELLED EVENTS

- 18.1 The event organiser has the right to stop or cancel play, as it deems necessary for player safety. Cancelled events will be confirmed as early as possible.
- 18.2 If a tournament is not started or the first round is incomplete and the event cannot be resumed with adequate time to complete the event, the tournament will be declared "cancelled".
- 18.3 Where possible a "cancelled" tournament will be rescheduled to another date. Teams will be notified as soon as possible where a cancellation occurs.
- 18.4 Teams may need to re-enter for any rescheduled tournaments. Those teams that do not re-enter will have their entry fee refunded.
- 18.5 If a tournament is "cancelled" after the first round but before all subsequent rounds are completed, then the number of rounds played will determine the ratings, points and prize money made available. These will be allocated in proportion to the number of completed rounds. For example, if half the scheduled matches are played before the tournament is "cancelled" then 50% of ratings, points and prize money will be made available.
- 18.6 In the event of a "cancelled" tournament, Volleyball Ireland will not be responsible for any loss incurred by a player due to the cancellation.

19. OFFICIAL COMPETITION BALL

19.1 All VLY Beach Tour Events must be played using the Mikasa VLS300 Beach Volleyball (see appendix B). Failure to do so may result in the event being removed from the VLY Beach Tour calendar.

20. OFFICIAL COMPETITION UNIFORMS

20.1 The following rules shall apply:

Junior Tour Event	Players are free to wear any uniform they like.
1* Tour Event	Players are free to wear any uniform they like.
2* Tour Event	Players must wear tops that are the same colour.
3* Tour Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a player competes in their first 3* Tour event, they will be given 2 playing tops. Players bottoms must be matching. • Players must wear the official VLY Beach Tour 3* events uniform at all VLY Beach Tour 3* events. • During a match, each team must be in different colour playing tops. The final decision of who wears which colour shall be decided by the referee of that match. • Players must always wear matching uniforms: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Men – Official top but are permitted to wear t-shirt/long sleeve top under singlet and leggings under shorts. 2. Women – Official top but are permitted to wear to wear t-shirt/long sleeve top under singlet and shorts or leggings instead of bikini bottoms.

21. VLY BEACH TOUR RANKING SYSTEM

21.1 The Ranking Points support an overall ranking of beach volleyball players in Ireland.

21.2 The VLY Beach Tour use 3 ranking systems:
 Champions Race: See section 25.
 National Ranking: See section 26.

- 21.3 Ranking Points will be awarded according to the Ranking Points Schedule (see Appendix A).
- 21.4 All teams / individuals eliminated at the same point in a tournament will be allocated the same points. For example, in a double elimination draw 7th & 8th is eliminated together so both teams will be allocated the points for 7th place.

22. VLY BEACH TOUR CHAMPIONS RACE

- 22.1 Only Ranking Points earned in VLY Beach Tour events apply to the VLY Beach Tour Champions Race.
- 22.2 The VLY Beach Tour Champions Race Points start from zero at the beginning of Each season and accumulate at each event in which a player competes. The season will run from 1st May – 30th September.

23. VLY BEACH TOUR NATIONAL RANKING

- 23.1 A players National Ranking will consist of their top 8 results over a 365-day period. Only a maximum of 4 FIVB results are considered.
- 23.2 FIVB World Tour points have a multiplier of 3 applied to them to map those points to equivalent VLY Beach Tour earned Ranking Points.
- 23.3 The VLY Beach Tour National Ranking is calculated on a rolling 365-day basis. The Points are not reset at the start of the season but reflect every event from the last 365 days.

24. TOURNAMENT SEEDING POLICY

- 24.1 Players seeding points will consist of their top 4 results from the previous 365 days.
- 24.2 Teams will be seeded by the combined total of seeding Points gained by team members during the previous 365 days.
Should two or more teams remain tied they will be separated according to the lowest placing of a player in either team.
- 24.3 Teams receiving a wildcard may be seeded at the discretion of the Event Organiser, in consultation with the VLY Beach Tour Committee.
- 24.4 A team's seeding points may change from when confirmed entry list is issued to when the tournament begins. In this instance, the team will be seeded

according to their new seeding points on the day of competition.

- 24.5 Player points can be found under the RANKINGS section of the Volleyball Ireland website.



25. TOURNAMENT PRIZE MONEY & TROPHY PRESENTATION

- 25.1 According to the VLY Beach Tour Event Criteria (Appendix B):

Junior Tour	1st & 2nd place teams receive a minimum of a medal (VLY Beach Tour Medal) per player. 3rd place optional.
1* & 2* Tour Event	1st & 2nd place teams receive a minimum of a medal (VLY Beach Tour Medal) per player. 3rd place optional.
3* Tour Event	1st & 2nd place teams receive a minimum of a medal (VLY Beach Tour Medal) per player and a minimum of €100 and maximum of €500 prize money to be split at a ratio determined by the event organiser. 3rd place optional.

- 25.2 The following rules apply to the trophy presentation:

All Tour Events	The top 2 ranked teams are expected to stay for the prize ceremony. If a player/team fails to attend the prize ceremony, the event organiser may impose sanctions including but are not limited to, the withholding of prize money, medals/trophies, and any other prizes.
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26. MATCH OFFICIATING

In all matches where tournament appointed referees are not supplied, teams will be expected to referee and score (i.e., do “duty”).

- 26.2 All competition formats will state which team is to officiate a match. Failure to complete officiating duty may result in sanctions such as points deduction from National Rankings.
- 26.3 Players doing “duty” shall be situated on opposite sides of the court (1st referee and scorer), 1st referee shall always be standing.
- 26.4 In the case of tournament appointed referees being present, the “duty” team

may still be expected to second referee and/or score.

27. SAFEGUARDING

27.1 Tournament organisers agree to uphold the level of safeguarding set out by their respective National Governing Body during Junior Tour events and when young people are present. This includes but not limited to:

- Where Under 18s are participating in the event the host must appoint a Children's Officer who has safeguarding 2 and Garda Vetting (through Volleyball Ireland) credentials. This person must always remain present at the event.
- The host organization must have an UpToDate Child Safety Statement and Risk Assessment.
- For all under 18s participating in the event to have completed a parental consent form Informing players clearly who that Children's Officer is
- The Children's Officer to be vigilant throughout the event.
- Deal with any safeguarding concerns in the correct way according to NGB guidance
- If any welfare concerns do arise, the Children's Officer must report them to the host Club's Designated Liaison Person and to Volleyball Ireland's National Children's Officer.
- If the Children's Officer determines an under 18 is in imminent danger or at high risk, they must contact An Garda Siochana or TUSLA and report to Volleyball Ireland's National Children's Officer.

27.2 Supporting material for tournament organisers:

- [Contact Volleyball Ireland or Local Sports Partnership to find the Children's Officer Safeguarding Training.](#)
- [Statutory Authorities and Medical Assistance Contacts](#)
- [Information and Garda Vetting Forms](#)
- [Sample consent form \(To BE LINKED\)](#)
- Suggesting posters around the venue and pre-event emails
- Here is the link to [Volleyball Ireland's Safeguarding Policy](#)

28. APPENDICIES

Appendix A: Player Ranking Points (per player)

POSITION	3*	2*	1* & JNR. U20	JNR U16
1	96	60	24	16
2	84	48	20	14
3=	72	36	18	12
4	66	30	17	10
5=	60	24	16	9
7=	48	20	14	8
9=	36	18	12	7
11=	24	16	10	6
13=	20	14	8	5
15=	18	12	6	4
17=	10	6	4	3
19=	6	4	2	2
25=	4	2	1	1

FIVB World Tour / CEV / Zonal points awarded on a multiple of x 4 for VLY Beach Tour

Appendix B: Official Game Ball



Appendix C: Event Criteria Table

	JNR TOUR	1 STAR	2 STAR	3 STAR
GENDER	Mixed or single gender	Mixed or single gender	Mixed or single gender	Single gender
ORGANISER	Club/National Squad or VLY Staff	Club/National Squad	Club/National Squad	VLY Staff
PLAYERS	3v3 (U16 Only) 2v2 (U20 Only)	4v4 & 3v3 No Ranking Points 2v2 Ranking Points (Former "Plate" players)	2v2 (Former "Cup" players)	2v2
ENTRY	First come, first served – BTMC reserve the right to entry	First come, first served – BTMC reserve the right to entry	First come, first served, plus 4 wildcards. First come, first served – BTMC reserve the right to entry	Ranking Pts plus 4 wildcards
PRIZE	Medals for 1st & 2nd Place Clubs Can issue prizes also.	Medals for 1st & 2nd Place Clubs Can issue prizes also.	Medals for 1st & 2nd Place Clubs Can issue prizes also.	Prize Money & Medals for 1st, 2nd clubs Can issue prizes also.
SCORING	Reduced scoring allowed (1 set match)	Reduced scoring allowed (1 set match)	Reduced scoring allowed (1 set match)	Full Scoring
NUMBER OF TEAMS	Minimum of 4 teams per gender (Max TBC based of courts)	Minimum of 4 teams per gender (Max TBC based of courts)	Minimum of 8 teams per gender (Max TBC based of courts)	Minimum of 6 teams per gender. Max of 12
FORMAT	Various	Pool Play & or Double Elimination	Pool Play & or Double Elimination	Pool Play and double elimination tournament format
OFFICIALS	Inform E&T Commission of event for any referee training opportunities	Inform E&T Commission of event for any referee training opportunities	Referee for SF & Final	2 Referees for Centre Court, 1 Referee for other courts
MARKETING	VLY Material to be displayed	VLY Material to be displayed	VLY Material to be displayed	VLY Material to be displayed
ENTERTAINMENT	Music	Music	Music	Music
ADDITIONAL EVENTS	N/A	N/A	Come & Try Nets	1* Event + Come & Try Nets
CENTRE COURT	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
UNIFORM	N/A	N/A	Matching Colours	Yes